

**Ambassador Feinstein's Remarks at the  
Opening of the Kosciuszko Foundation Exhibit  
12:00 p.m. on March 16, 2011  
Polish Senate building (Entrance B II)  
(As Prepared for Delivery)**

- Speaker Borusewicz, thank you for inviting me to speak today at the opening of this fascinating exhibit, which chronicles the Kosciuszko Foundation's role in building strong and long standing bonds between Poland and the United States.
  
- [Panie Marszałku, dziękuję za zaproszenie. Cieszę się, że mogę zabrać głos podczas otwarcia tej fascynującej wystawy. Wystawy, która pokazuje wkład Fundacji Kościuszkowskiej w budowę trwałych więzi, jakie od dawna łączą Polskę i Amerykę.]
  
- Executive Director Storozynski, let me offer my congratulations to you as well on this exhibit, and also on the Kosciuszko Foundation's recent registration [as a non-profit organization] in Poland. The Foundation's registration will enable you to work even more effectively here as a bridge between U.S. and Polish culture.

- Tadeusz Kosciuszko, the namesake of your foundation, is one of the most powerful, and famous, examples of the close relationship between the United States and Poland. The Kosciuszko Foundation is an equally fitting organization to maintain and develop those close ties.
- Kosciuszko earned a reputation as a freedom fighter on two different continents. He fought for and demanded freedom for Americans of all backgrounds. He opposed tyranny in France, and in Poland he fought for independence while promoting freedom for all, including serfs and Jews. His commitment to freedom and equality for all famously earned him Thomas Jefferson's appraisal that Kosciuszko was "the purest son of liberty I have ever known."
- In modern times, the Kosciuszko Foundation has spent an impressive 85 years – since 1925 – promoting educational and cultural exchange between Poland and the United States. The Foundation is a partner, and a leader, in promoting friendship and advancing mutual understanding between Americans and Poles. It does this in many ways—through programs of Polish language and cultural studies for Americans, through presentations of Polish musicians, artists and

academics in the United States, and through academic exchanges bringing Poles to study in American universities, and sending Americans to study in Poland.

- With significant private support, especially from Americans of Polish heritage, the Foundation carried out its mission through wartime and the difficult years of communism. It claims among its alumni many leading Polish political, cultural, social and academic leaders, and can take justifiable credit for its contribution to Poland's transition to freedom and democracy.
- In short, the Kosciuszko Foundation's mission has exemplified the values and aims of its namesake. Your activities have enriched both of our countries, entirely in the spirit of Tadeusz Kosciuszko.
- Congratulations once again, Alex, and may your good work continue long into the future! Sto lat!